

BLOOD & THUNDER

Letters to the Editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

Fascist Tendencies in PC Movement

There are some points that should be made in regard to the politically correct movement. First of all, it is not just "bigots, racists, and jerks," or those of a right-wing persuasion, or those who belong to the COR party who see fascist tendencies in the politically correct movement. A conservative Republican representative in the American government has received support from the American Civil Liberties Union for a bill in Congress to protect students in private colleges from discipline in matters regarding speech or other forms of communication. The ACLU can hardly be considered a "dominant group" by Kwame Dawes' definition. The ACLU has long been an arch-rival of conservatives in America.

Here in Canada, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission announced a policy in May of this year that would not allow on radio or television a comment that would discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. According to Lise Plouffe of the CRTC (as quoted by columnist Peter Stockland of *The Ottawa Sun*, May 20, 1991), this could include comments made by a devout Christian, Jew, or Muslim on his or her view of homosexuality. This violates the guarantees of freedom of religion and speech set out in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Here on campus, some students tell me that there are professors on this campus who deduct marks from students who use gender-specific language in their papers. The Faculty of Law here at UNB (re: Jeffery Czopor's article in *The Brunswickan*, October 11, 1991, page 1) feels that the issue of the "gender related policy" has

been "gravely misunderstood." On the contrary, I believe that the issue has been only too well understood, and that is why it has "bought about animosity, confusion, and disgust amongst many students and faculty, male and female alike."

I believe the term "politically correct" was chosen not by its opponents but rather by its advocates. The very concept of "politically correct" fosters an "us against them" mentality that precludes any meaningful discussion or give and take of ideas. I do not think anyone is claiming that there is any sort of conspiracy on the part of politically correct people. Rather, the term "politically correct," or PC, as it is called, refers to a set of beliefs that certain people hold. The basic theme of these beliefs owes much to Karl Marx and Jacques Derrida (who is associated with the form of literary criticism known as deconstructionism) and seems to hold that Western civilization is inherently bad and must be done away with by whatever means. In Kwame Dawes' words, he calls it a "struggle" and says "The process entailed a deconstruction (or indepth unearthing) of the structures that have guided much of our thoughts and values for years and a quest to show them up for what they were." Stifling opinions have certainly been one of the means used by the PC. Calling someone PC does not stifle their opinions near as much as the implementation of CRTC policy, or deduction of marks from students' papers, or firing of people from their jobs does (re: my previous letter to *The Brunswickan*, September 27, 1991, page, 6). A disclaimer by one person who is PC, against the tactics of other people who are PC does not mean this has not been a hallmark of the PC movement in

general, and so require the acquiescence of those who have seen it as a threat. The weight of government and university faculties are being used by the PC to achieve their ends. There are many newspaper and magazine articles, as well as books available that confirm and add to what I have said, some of which are available in the Harriet Irving Library for those who are interested.

Gary Craigs

Take a Stand Against "Humour"

As a third year student, I was very happy to attend the entertaining Red and Black Revue for the first time. The show, overall, was well put together and Susan Magasi and the others who worked hard to make the show a success should be commended.

However, I would like to address an issue about the Red and Black Revue that upsets me a great deal. Although the Engineer Jug Band began their act in an entertaining way, the second part of their act was discriminating to many groups of people.

Examples of such groups subjected to ridicule were the gay community and women (particularly female nurses). I was offended by the attitudes expressed towards typically oppressed and stereotyped groups.

As a university community, the remarks which were made were bad enough, but the support and recognition from the audience that this was acceptable humor deeply shocked me. Perhaps, as a social work student, I have been made more consciously aware of the problems which are created by such attitudes. However, I was surprised that an educated group of students could not also see the broader issues concerning this

type of unacceptable behavior. What type of screening process is implemented to decide which acts are acceptable. Is there any?

The theme of the engineer's song was that engineers rule the world. Although engineers, as a group, do not rule the world, some of the attitudes expressed in the act of these engineers reflect the attitudes which are held by those that have controlling power in our society. These attitudes are the root of many of our social problems and until people realize this and take a stand against such "humor" the change many of us work for will never take place

Barb MacNaughton

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